



# WOUNDED WARRIOR BATTALION-EAST



*Including Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, NNMCC Bethesda, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, James A Haley VA Polytrauma-Tampa, Naval Hospital Portsmouth, Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center-Richmond, Minneapolis VA Medical Center, and Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune.*

**SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE**

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## WELCOME TO THE BATTALION!

LtCol Benson

Maj McHale

Capt Bonarrigo

GySgt Clinton

GySgt David

SSgt Pabich

SSgt Smith

Cpl Ginley

Cpl Housouer

LCpl Brown

Pvt Phillips

**Mission Statement: Develop and maintain a comprehensive program that tracks and supports all ill/injured Marines/Sailors who are residents East of the Mississippi River and provide assistance to them and their families until they have been returned to duty, have been medically discharged or successfully reestablished in civilian life.**

## MSGT BARNES, FOUNDING MEMBER OF WOUNDED WARRIOR BATTALION-EAST, RETIRES



*SgtMaj Collins reads the Retirement Order for MSgt Ken Barnes as Capt Ray Baronie, Retiring Officer, looks on.*

MSgt Ken Barnes was a Gunnery Sergeant when he, teamed with LtCol Tim Maxwell, first founded the Wounded Warrior Barracks, now known as Wounded Warrior Battalion-East. On Friday 31 July 2009, MSgt Ken Barnes retired from the Marine Corps. MSgt Barnes joined the Marine Corps on 8 September 1987 from his home of record in Oregon. After completing boot camp at MCRD San Diego, MSgt Barnes traveled to NC to attend training at the School of Infantry (East) in the Machine Gunner MOS field. After 8 deployments including Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, MSgt Barnes was injured by a roadside bomb in November of 2004. While hospitalized at Bethesda for the treatment of his wounds, MSgt Barnes and LtCol Tim Maxwell saw a need for a place where wounded Marines could help each

other heal. There the Wounded Warrior Barracks concept was born. As a result of the work of both men, the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Program became a pilot program for the Department of Defense ultimately creating Wounded Warrior programs for all branches of service. The contributions that MSgt Barnes has made will have an everlasting effect on not only the Marine Corps but on all branches of service. We wish MSgt Ken Barnes all the best in his future endeavors. Semper Fi!

## WOUNDED WARRIOR BATTALION- EAST HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Wounded Warrior Battalion-East held its Change of Command ceremony on 14 August 2009. LtCol Tom Siebenthal handed the reins over to LtCol George Benson. LtCol Siebenthal was the Officer in Charge of the Injured Support Unit which ultimately became Wounded Warrior Battalion-East. LtCol George Benson joins us after a 15 month deployment to Iraq with a Mobile Training Team (MTT) team. The Wounded Warrior Battalion-East will be holding a Family Day event on 17 September 2009 as an opportunity for the families to meet our new Commanding Officer and his family. Additionally, we wish LtCol Siebenthal all the best in his retirement and future endeavors and look forward to our time with LtCol Benson.



*The colors are passed from LtCol Siebenthal to LtCol Benson at the recently held Change of Command ceremony.*

PSC BOX 20085 CAMP LEJEUNE, NC 28542-0085

## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER

Marines, Sailors, and Families of Wounded Warrior Battalion – East,

I first want to thank all of you for the warm welcome to the battalion and recognize how much I have appreciated, and continue to appreciate, meeting each of you. LtCol Tom Siebenthal has done an exceptional job standing up this battalion and I would ask all of you who see him in the near future to congratulate him.

This is a pivotal time for the battalion. Our Corps' prioritization for wounded warrior care and leadership cannot be overstated and as we look to the future it is obvious that there is much work to do. In late 2010 we will occupy our first dedicated barracks designed and built specifically for wounded warriors. At the same time and location, Camp Lejeune will receive its first Fisher House funded by the Intrepid Foundation. The barracks will comfortably billet 200 wounded warriors as well as company office space and the Fisher House can support 12 families visiting seriously injured or ill Marines or Sailors. A year later the battalion will occupy both a headquarters building and state of the art resource center we refer to as the "Hope and Care Center." The Hope and Care Center will be a one-stop-shop for the needs of wounded warriors – Transition Center, Warrior Athletic Rehabilitation Programs, charitable organizations, and more. All four structures will be located adjacent to the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital for ease of access to the hospital and associated resources.

In addition to facilities, there are many medical studies and tests under review for treatment of specific injuries. While it is too early to say whether these studies and tests will bring long term success, the fact that the medical community continues to research and pioneer new treatments for our wounded warriors is exciting and hope inspiring. Some of the current testing includes the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) which is studying the effects of hyperbaric oxygen on traumatic brain injuries. Another initiative is Eastern Carolina University's Biofeedback training that helps patients cope with anger, frustration, and depression. For more information on these programs and their current status, contact our Medical Case Manager Advisor, Mrs. Lin Weidow (910)449-9878. If Lin does not answer, please leave a message; we are undergoing the growing pains of our facilities and Lin is frequently required to bounce between offices. She will return your call!

Please welcome some of our new joins to the battalion. At my right hand is our new Command Advisor, Mr. Craig Stephens. Mr. Stephens is a retired lieutenant colonel and his final assignment was the G-1 for Marine Special Operations Command. His contributions are already invaluable. Additionally, we have added Major Erin McHale (Operations Officer), Captain Paul Bonarrigo (Company Executive Officer), GySgt Rodrick David (Logistics Chief), GySgt Laura Clinton (Limited Duty Coordinator), and Ms. Evelyn Raymond (Call Center Care Coordinator). With the recent signing of our proposed task organization change request, I expect some significant manpower increases to WWBn-E. Additionally, we are expecting to add 12 additional Recovery Care Coordinators (RCC) to WWBn-E this fall; eight of those coordinators will base here at Camp Lejeune while the remaining four will be divided between Bethesda, Richmond, and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

Again, I would like to thank you for the warm welcome and I look forward to meeting each of you in the very near future.

Semper Fidelis

LtCol George S. Benson  
Commanding Officer, Wounded Warrior Battalion – East

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SgtMaj Collins	9/1
LCpl Ellis	9/1
Maj Bridgeman	9/2
Sgt Bourne	9/2
Sgt Stinson	9/2
Sgt Stolaas II	9/2
Sgt Roberts	9/3
Cpl Roberts	9/3
Sgt Chargualaf	9/6
Sgt Morante	9/8
SSgt Hickman	9/9
SSgt Maugham	9/9
Cpl Ward	9/9
GySgt Frawley	9/10
SSgt Stamaria	9/10
LCpl GuzmanAlberto	9/10
LCpl Elsass	9/12
LCpl RamirezMira	9/12
Cpl Housouer	9/13
LCpl Leonhard	9/15
SSgt Ownbey	9/16
Cpl Drake II	9/17
Cpl Stengel	9/18
Sgt Powell	9/19
Cpl Thorpe	9/20
LCpl Gray	9/20
SSgt Young	9/22
Sgt McNamara	9/22
Cpl Mundorff	9/22
LCpl Vance	9/22
Cpl Golian	9/23
Cpl Mitchell	9/24
SSgt Fowler	9/25
SSgt Schoenheit	9/25
Cpl Thomas	9/25
LCpl Felix	9/25
Sgt Rauch	9/27
Cpl DavisMendelow	9/27
LCpl Waldron	9/27
GySgt Minix	9/28
LCpl Martin, Justin	9/28
SSgt Gonzalez	9/30
Cpl PerezCanto	9/30

**VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.LEJEUNE.USMC.MIL/WWBNE](http://WWW.LEJEUNE.USMC.MIL/WWBNE)**

# RESOURCE INFORMATION

## MILITARY SPOUSES TO GET FEDERAL HIRING PREFERENCE

The Office of Personnel Management released new guidelines for an optional hiring authority which will take effect this September 2009. The hiring authority allows federal agencies the option of hiring certain military spouses without having to compete. The rule allows agencies to appoint the husbands or wives of members of the armed forces to jobs without comparing them to other candidates under three conditions: if a service member is transferred to a new location permanently, becomes completely disabled during active duty (though the injuries do not have to result from combat), or dies during an active-duty assignment. If the spouse is killed during service, the widow or widower must remain unmarried before receiving an appointment. "When you think of the family stresses that military service creates, the idea that we might be able to use civilian employment to make service easier seems to me to be a smart one," Randy Erwin, legislative director for the National Federation of Federal Employees said. "I think we also have to recognize that we have to make sure it's not sufficient to create these authorities, we have to make sure agencies really understand that they are there and are encouraged to use them."

For more information, please visit <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0809/081209ar1.htm>.

## CHANGES TO TRICARE ENROLLMENT POLICY

If you are a non-active duty beneficiary in the 50 United States and live more than 30 minutes' travel time from the MTF where you want to enroll, you must waive TRICARE's access standards using one of the following options:

- Enroll through the Beneficiary Web Enrollment Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/bwe/>, which confirms that you waive your access standards.
- Submit a DD Form 2876 TRICARE Prime Enrollment Application and PCM Change Form and sign Sections V and VI. Note: A signed waiver is also required when choosing a civilian PCM outside the access standards.

If you live more than 30 minutes but less than 100 miles from the MTF, your waiver request must be approved by the MTF. The MTF must also approve any waivers for those living 100 miles or more from the MTF. Absent a waiver, those who live more than 40 miles from the MTF will be disenrolled from Prime and revert to TRICARE Standard as of October 1.

If you have additional questions or concerns or if you would like information regarding your options within TRICARE, please contact your regional TRICARE office for more information and/or visit [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

## HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS SPRING 2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

Hope For The Warriors™ awards scholarships to US military spouses of Wounded and Fallen Warriors. The purpose of the scholarships is to identify, recognize and reward exceptional spouses for their strength, fidelity and resolve despite adversity and to aid in their continued education at a reputable, accredited college or trade school as they assume critical roles in the financial well being of their families. Scholarship awards are \$5,000 to be made co-payable to the scholarship recipient's institution for payment of tuition, books and supplies and may be reapplied for up to four years for a maximum of \$20,000. The scholarships will be awarded twice a year to spouses or caregivers of a wounded service member and the spouse of a fallen service member. For more information, please email [kathi@hopeforthewarriors.org](mailto:kathi@hopeforthewarriors.org) or visit the Hope for the Warriors website at [www.hopeforthewarriors.org](http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org).

\* August 24, 2009: Anticipated Spring 2010 Scholarship New Application and guidelines available online

\* October 13, 2009---Post mark deadline for applications to Hope for The Warriors™

Mailed to: Hope for the Warriors™ Scholarship program  
4701 Shore Drive Suite 103 #426

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

\* November 16, 2009---Scholarship Award Notification

## HOPE FOR THE WARRIORS™ SPRING 2010 SCHOLARSHIPS:

*The Shannon Maxwell Award (highest honor)*

*The Bonnie Amos Award*

*The Karin Dickerson Award*

*The Robin Kelleher - New Beginnings Award* - awarded specifically to the spouse of a KIA

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



The next **Wounded Warrior Spouses Support Group meeting** will be held on **16 September 2009**. We will be meeting at the Warrior Resource Center (located across the road from Marston Pavilion) aboard MCB Camp Lejeune at 1800. For more information, please contact Hope for the Warriors at (910) 938-1817.

The **2009 Hope For The Warriors™ 9/11 Hope Ride**, a three-day adaptive cycling event through coastal North Carolina will provide a rehabilitative as well as recreational cycling experience for combat-wounded service members from across the United States and all branches of the U.S. Armed Services. The ride will begin aboard Camp Lejeune on **Thursday September 10th** with a brief opening ceremony. This first leg of the ride is approximately 12 miles in length (from Hospital Point to Courthouse Bay). From Courthouse Bay the riders will be transported to Hampstead to begin the second leg of the ride. During the 3 day event the riders will cycle approximately 30 miles total a day. Along the course, the cyclists will be honored by school children, elected officials, and community groups. The event will culminate with a community ride/run on Oak Island on **Saturday, September 12th 2009**.

**NC State Football Game** will be held on **12 September 2009**. There will be a bus picking up Marines, Sailors and their families from the battalion, leaving at 2:00 pm. For more information or to sign up, please contact our Charitable Organizations Liaison, Ed Salau, at (910) 449-9578 or via email at edwin.salau@usmc.mil.

## PROMOTIONS



(Left) Former Commanding Officer LtCol Tom Siebenthal and SgtMaj Collins promote Company Executive Officer Captain Paul Bonariggo to his current rank. (Right) Former Commanding Officer LtCol Siebenthal and Mrs. Karen Bonariggo pin Captain bars on the newly promoted Captain Bonariggo.



## CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION



Certificates of Appreciation were given to (L to R) Ms Nina McBroom of Base Buildings, Ms Carol Neal of Base Comptroller, Ms Barbara Dozier of Marine Corps Community Services, and Mr Jimmy Mahoney of Base Public Works. Separately honored were Ms. Clair Dancy of Base Contracting, Mr. John Blackburn of Base Property, Mr. Lee Perkins of Base Facilities, Mr. Kenneth Allen of Base Public Works, Mr. Frank Payne of Supply Management Division, Ms. Delores Trott of Base Property, Mr. Roy Cornell of Base Motor Transportation, Mr. Joe Lazzane of Base Military Police, and Ms Trisha Smyers of Base FSI. Wounded Warrior Battalion-East would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of these wonderful staffers for their lasting contributions!

## FAREWELL...

MSgt Barnes  
1stSgt Hill  
GySgt Strong  
Cpl Hughes  
Cpl Lopez  
HM2 Kirby  
Pvt Durham

## WOUNDED WARRIOR BATTALION EAST STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

### Command Staff

LtCol Benson	451-3115
Maj Wooding	449-9598
SgtMaj Collins	451-3853

### Admin

GySgt Wayman	449-9555
SSgt Silva	451-1907

### Chaplain

CDR Tim Williams	449-9769
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### Family Support

Josie Callahan	449-9646
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### Family Readiness

Kristy Jones	449-9800
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### Operations

Maj McHale	449-9557
GySgt Coleman	451-1795
Ed Salau	449-9578

### Transition Center

Kasi Theakston	451-2373
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### Programs

Dr. Ginger Gold	449-9577
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### Medical

Chief Town	451-4083
Tammie Styer	449-9576
Carrie Reedy	449-9648
Jacqui Pritchard	449-9879
Jennifer Simmons	449-9575

### RCCs

Tim Nelson	376-2369
Sarah Maddox	376-2411